

MORE STRICKEN INDUSTRIES

GLASSWORKERS AND POTTERS APPEAL

HOW THEY HAVE SUFFERED IN LOSS OF WORK
AND WAGES UNDER THE WILSON TARIFF--

Washington, Jan. 8.—If the statements made to the Committee on Ways and Means to-day by the manufacturers and workmen who are

or down to the spring of 1893 were engaged in making glassware and earthenware are true, these industries have suffered and are now suffering intensely on account of the tariff legislation of 1894, and nobody in this country, except the agents of foreign manufacturers and possibly a few importers, has been benefited.

That the statements made are true and not exaggerated there is not the slightest reason to doubt, and they were not directly challenged, even by Mr. McMillin or Judge Turner. The former has seemed, since the hearings began, to be trying to discover a theory which would harmonize with the results of the law of 1894, of which he was one of the more active and conspicuous framers, and also with the theories which governed in the preparation of that bewildering legislation, but he has not yet succeeded. It will be somewhat difficult for future

investigators who may attempt to follow Mr. McMillin's trail through the reports of the hearings to keep their bearings and say when they reach the end of it what he was probably driving at. He seems to have abandoned the claim that the Wilson bill was framed in order to produce "revenue only," because it has not

done so. He misses no opportunity to call attention to the figures which show that the quantity and value of a certain article imported in 1893 were greater than in 1892, but cases in which the importations of 1892 exceeded those of 1893 in both quantity and value, and the amount of duties collected in 1892 exceeded the amount collected in 1893, he passes over in silence.

In the course of to-day's hearing reference was again made to the subject of Japanese com-

petition, which was discussed when the schedules of cotton goods and of textiles manufactured from jute were under consideration. The matter was called up to-day and considerable light shed on it by Representative Taylor, of Ohio, in his address in behalf of the pottery industries. It is apparent that members of the committee have already become awakened to a

To-day, as on every day since the hearings began, the demand for specific rates of duty was strong and urgent and almost unanimous, the only dissenting voice raised being that of a representative of the crockery importers. It ap-

pears that the manufacturers of earthenware goods have become so deeply impressed with the necessity as well as desirability of specific rates of duty that they have been making a thorough investigation to ascertain whether or not it would be practicable to substitute specific for ad valorem rates on table and ornamental earthenware and chinaware, and Mr. Taylor said that they had found a practicable plan for the imposition of weight duties, which would be submitted

The hearing was opened by F. W. Walker, of Beaver Falls, Penn., who represented the manufacturers of floor and wall tiles. They desired the substitution of specific for ad valorem duties, under which there have been excessive importations on fraudulently undervalued invoices in the last two years. He explained one of the ways in which the frauds were committed. An order would be sent, he said, to a foreign manufacturer or his agent, accompanied by a draft for half the amount of the order. The invoice

would be made to cover the entire shipment, but the values would be entered to correspond with the unpaid half of the order, and to escape detection a few inferior tiles would be scattered through the shipment in order to deceive the customs officers. In many cases, he asserted, the invoices did not show more than one-fourth of the actual foreign market value of the shipments. According to Mr. Walker, about 80 per cent of the domestic consumption of floor and wall tiles is manufactured in the United States. The capac-

ity of domestic production had doubled under the law of 1890, but there had been no increase under the existing law, and the present condition of the industry was exceedingly unsatisfactory. By the substitution of specific for ad valorem rates of duty, and some changes of classification which were suggested, the revenues would be increased and the domestic industry again restored to its former condition.

Robert W. Leslie, of Philadelphia, submitted a printed statement in behalf of the manufacturers of cement. The duty on this article was not disturbed in 1894, and no change was now desired. The revenue derived from imported cement had averaged \$500,000 a year for the last five years, and the domestic production

HARDSHIPS OF THE GLASSBLOWERS.

The condition of the cement industry offered a striking contrast to that of the manufacture

of glass bottles as described by workmen who are employed in that industry, or were therein employed before the enactment of the law of 1894, which deprived many of them of

The first speaker in behalf of this industry was Edward A. Agard, of Streator, Ill., a green glass bottle-blower. In behalf of his fellow-workingmen and of the manufacturers, Mr.

Agard urged the restoration of the duties of 1890. He said that the law of 1894 had wrought demoralization and havoc in the industry, and the last two years had witnessed a struggle for bare existence on the part of the men who had been employed therein. Under the law of 1890 the business had been prosperous and work and wages steady. Under the

new law, "which reduces the rates of duty nearly one-half, labor, which is always first to suffer in such a case," had found its wages reduced 15 to 25 per cent, and had found itself deprived of employment about one-half the time. It had been idle six months of the year instead of the two months when the weather is too hot for glassblowing.

Another evil effect of the law had been to break down and drive out of business all the

smaller factories built by the co-operative efforts of the workmen, which had been so potent a factor in the reduction of prices of bottles to consumers. "It was amazing," exclaimed Mr. Agard, "that any body of men should have done what Congress did when it enacted the legislation of 1891." He submitted figures, which

legislation of 1894. He submitted figures showing the comparative cost of production of bottles in the United States and foreign competing countries, and also the enormous increase of importations under the tariff of 1894. At San Francisco the increase in three months under that law, as compared with a like period under

that now, as compared with a like period under the law of 1890, was from 608,000 to 2,356,000, or nearly 400 per cent, and an officer of the Green Bottle Blowers' Association who visited that port in the spring of 1896 found three